(c) (i) The exchange is already commissioned on 6-8-93. (ii) It is too early to quantify the incremental revenue expected to be earned through this Electronic Exchange.

Induction of 6 Switching Technologies

3658. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an experts Panel has recommended the induction of 6 Switching Technologies;

(b) if so, the details of the 6 Switching Technologies;

(c) what is the manner in which the induction of new switching technologies will effect public sector units like ITI;

(d) whether any modernisation programme will be undertaken to increase the viability of ITI and other public sector units; and

(e) if so, the full detils thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir, for large capacity exchanges (more than 10,000 lines).

(b) The following five technologies have so far been validated: FETEX 150 of Fujitsu, Japan; EWSD of Siemens, Germany; AXE 10 Ericsson, Sweden; No. 5 ESS of AT&T, USA; OCB 283 of Alcatel, France.

(c) ITI will be competing with other manufacturers in the liberalised economy according to market driven force.

(d) Modernisation has already been undertaken by ITI, which will ensure viability of current technology. However, the viability will depend on the production volume and price.

(e) ITI has signed collaboration agreement with M/s. Alcatel France for the latest OCB-283 CSN switch of the E-10B family of Digital Switching systems which has recently been validated as approved by DOT for induction into the network.

Auction of Slots for Mobile Phones

3659. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to auction slots for the grant of franchise to operate mobile/cellular phones;

(b) if so, what are the details of this proposal;

(c) what are the reasons for not auctioning such slots to the highest bidder on certain conditionalities; and

(d) what is the state of the pending proposals to introduce cellular phones in the telecom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) Some suggestions to auction slots for grant of franchise to operate mobile/cellular phones in cities, other than four Metro Cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras have been received, which are under consideration. Final decision in this regard is yet to be taken. Regarding four Metro cities tenders have been invited and evaluated 8 bidders have been provisionally selected.

(d) Some of the unsuccessful bidders filed a civil writ petition in the High Court of Delhi. The judgment has since been delivered and is under study. Final decision in this regard is yet to be taken.

Tariff of Phone Calls fixed in Consultation with BICP

3660. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to consult the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) in the fixation of tariff for phone calls and other services of Telecom Department;

(b) if so, what are the details of this proposal;

(c) what other steps or suggestions are under consideration of Government to